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## The Culture of Red Oats.

s the time is already here for farmto commence sowing small grain hink it will be beneficial to those of who follow that method of obtaing our subsistence, to have an exchange of views upon this important subject. I know there are farmers who are well versed in this branch and I would like to get their ideas as a matter of improvement for myself. My experience has been limited, but I have made some observations and perhaps some of your readers might like to hear them.

There was a period of time when we were not dependent on the out erop for stock feed, but that has long since passed away, and we now consider the oat crop our only hope, as corn raising in this country has come to be but one of things of the past, a part of the agricultural history of the anti bellum regime. Just after the war closed and cotton was selling all the way up as high as 40 cents per pound, when everything was in an abnormal condition, when the com-merce, the finances, and the agriculture of the whole country was on a boom, the basis of which was an inflated currency, when money flowed like water, we could afford high stock feed, but in a few years when everything settled down to a normal condition, the farmer began to look about for cheap food for the mules that worked the cotton crop and the result was a general introduction of the famous red rust proof oat.

Some claimed that it was a God-send to this country, the only hope of the cotton planter, while I have always been undecided whether it was a blessing or a curse, for this reason, if the cotton blanter had been unable to get this oat some twelve or fourteen years ago, he would have been forced to adopt a different system of agriculture and he would have been unable to raise cotton at the low price he re-ceived for it, without this cheap stock food, consequently he would have given more of his time and attention to production of food crops, the rearing of cattle, hogs, sheep, poultry, etc., together with sowing the various grasses and making fine pastures. Again he would never have known and suffered the evils of that vampire, the lien law, which, while it is grad-ually sucking his life blood, cools him with the flap of its wing in the form of hope. The red oat, like whiskey, is good in its place, but is and has been harmful as a basis for a cotton crop. As a leader there is no better crop for our farmers, and we should give to it that intelligent study that it deserves; there is one serious draw-back, how-ever, to our oat crop and only one which I have carefully studied to remedy so far as my own crop is concerned and that is the freezing out process which has proyen so disastrous of late years.

Last season I planted one hundred acres in oats, and planted in several ways to satisfy myself which was the surest way to get a good stand, and the safest way of protection from freezes. The first safe-gaurd is early sowing always, as late sowing is seventy-five per cent. more liable to freezeout than early sowing. I sowed my crop in various ways to find out the best mothod of putting in a crop. The largest part, I prepared it nicely, cotton seeded it well, then sowed the seed and harrowed in the whole thing, and such a stand I never saw on ground. I next plowed in some very shallow and then harrowed the ground, get-ting as fine a stand as the first. Next, I plowed in some as deep as mules 20th October. I then sowed some in latter part of November and December, all of which I plowed in about an average depth. Some I harrowed and some I left rough in order to find out if harrowing the ground had any effect on the stand, but being sowed late, and the freezes commencing, not more than three per cent. of them ever came up at all, being killed in the process of germination. Ninety acres out of the hundred were killed out, while the remaining ten acres were far from having a full stand. Now the best stand of the ten acres were those that I plowed in deepest, and the next best were those that I plowed in shalthose I harrowed in.

low, while the poorest stand were I also took occasion to notice the different styles of sowing adopted by nearest neighbors, and found about the same results with them as in my own fields. I claim if we will plow in the cats deep and then harrow the ground over that the freezes will not effect the stand more than ten per gent., which is a reasonable allowance for bad seed and weakly plants, where if we put them in shallow, the stand will be injured fully fifty per cent. I give as my reasons the following: My actual experiment for that purpose. It is potent to all that where hats have been sown on cotton land, you can stand and trace the original water furrows between the old cotton beds, by the regular stand of oats looking as if they had been sown in drills. Again I can tell where the laps of two lands is by the oats being more regular along this ridge, because in plowing along this lap the oat seed get twice as much dirt thrown over them, by reason of the lapping process, as any other part of the land. Yet again, I can trace out every water furrow between the lands where the oat crop simply been harrowed in and am unable to account for it in any other way than by more of the soil being dragged it this furrow by the harrow. Another reason why I believe deep plowing in of oats will save the stand tom beds, however, did their full duty is, that our freezes are seldom more than two inches deep, and if the root ed or had time and season to set. of the oat is down deep in the warm earth below where the cold penetrates, 20th) I set 15,000 plants, of which, "My wife has been using the Bitters it certainly will live although the top perhaps 10,000 lived. The second for some months; the effect in her case may be bitten off by cold. All veges shower, about the 28th, I set 24,000, is remarkable". He also writes that it certainly will live although the top may be bitten off by cold. All vegetation has a tendency to come out saving not more than 12,000, the hot owing to counterfeits and imitations, again when the top is taken off from any cause whatever but the red out I then set about 10,000 with water, (a has a wonderful tenacity in this direction, even coming out and making two distinct seedings. My attention was called to the fact last year when I ve my mules some green half an acre of oats cut and made another crop so good as the first, yet that any plant that

stage of development,

we never heard so much complain of freezing out, and I regard the common use of harrows for putting in the oat crop as the main cause of so much trouble with bad stands. Of course there are other causes, but I regard harrowing in is the chief cause. There is one more theory upon which I am undecided, simply because I have not had an opportunity of testing it. I believe it has some bearing, but den't is, that our oats having become dimatized, they have become more tender from the effects of so much warm weather in the fall and spring, striking the young plant first and then coming again on them nearer maturity. If some farmer will procure seed from a colder latitude and publish his experience, he will confer a great favor on the generally. No one need fear putting the oat seed too deep in the ground, as I have fully tested that and find I can get a good stand at eight inches deep.
I would like to hear from some of

the older heads on this subject, men who have been long in the business, and who have made it a study. All we need in this country to make our agricultural interests a success, is

to give it its dues in the way of brainwork, get out of the old channels, stop planting cotton only as a surplus and making every plantation self-sustain-ing, and last but not least, stop the negro from killing mules by starvation and other equally as barbarous methods. If we could and would devote all our time and attention to our farming interests, it would bring about that grand agricultural revolution which I claim must come ere we will have any substantial progress or solid improvement in this country; then and not until then, will we have that "New South" they are writing so much

Let us not leave the whole rgricultural department in the the hands of the old men, but let cur young men lay hold and make it an honorable calling instead of a disgrace as many S. R. R. of us consider it now.

## Tobacco Culture.

The following interesting letter, received from Commissioner Butler, will also appear in the regort of the State agricultural department on the 15th instant:

LANDSFORD CHESTER Co., S. C., & September 21, 1885.

Col. A. P. Butler, Commissioner of Agriculture, Columbia, S. C.-Dear Sir: Realizing, after eight years' experience, both in planting and renting out land for the cultivation of cotton in this section, the necessity of finding another or rather additional money crop, I began two years ago to investigate and study the cultivation and curing of tobacco. I soon became convinced that a portion of my land was adapted to the growth of "bright vellow" tobacco, the production of which has done so much of late years to enrich certain sections of North Carolina and Virginia. Whether our climate would prove equally suitable could be proven only by actual experiment. This experiment I decided to make. In November last I employed in

Vance county, N. C., a young man

versed in tobacco culture and curing,

and on the first day of January, 1885,

began work to prepare for my first crop. Desirous of giving it a fair trial I cleared out and prepared for cultivation seven acres of original forest land of good quality and of the proper kind for the growth of bright tobacco, viz., of gray sandy top soil with po-rous yellow sandy subsoil. I also selected about ten acres in different lots of old lands, part in small pines of could pull the plows, (I mean one-horse plows), and harrowed the ground, also got a fine stand. All of this done in due season, not later than the due to the season and should be season as the season and should be season and should be season as the seas new ground already described. All of this, by repeated plowings and harrowing, I reduced to the finest tilth during the months of March, April and May, and in the latter month prepared them all for the reception of my plants-first manuring them-the new ground with 200 pounds of blood ammoniated superphosphates, (manufactured by the "Domestic Fertilizer Company of Columbia,") and the old land with a compost of stable manure, cotton seed, kainit and acid phosphate at the rate of a little more than 1,000 pounds per scre, both applied in the drill and bedded in as for cotton, and afterwards "hilled" by checking with a struight shovel and drawing up with hand hoes and "patting" to retain the moisture and indicate the place for setting the plant. All of this work I sound easy, and by the 10th of May had all my tobacco land ready with two horses and three extra hoe hands two of them boys under 15 years. In addition I had planted twelve acres in cotton, about the same in corn, besides garden and patches. My plant beds were prepared in January and February, part on upland and part on branch bottoms, the object being to provide for the extreme of wet or dry, and with the hope of securing plants for early setting from the warm upland beds. The seed, all of best varieties from yellow tobacco virgins of North Carolina, came well and proved very hardy, some even standing the severe tast of three or four inches of snow without hurt in the middle of March. From this date (March 17) to about the 10th of June, however, we had positively no rain, not even a shower in April, proberbial for her smiles and tears. In the latter part of May we had two small showers, but not enough to wet the ground half an inch, so my upland beds did practically no good the dry cold did practically no good, the dry cold wind "blowing the plants off the bed," as the saying goes, and the "flea beetle" and "fly" literally eating up what remainded. My bot-

and furnished me all the plants I need-The first shower in May (about the sun and dry ground killing the halt. slow, tedious and costly process:) two-thirds of these lived and did well. About the middle of June I succeeded in getting all my land once set, and perhaps, had 40,000 plants then fiving, but the terrible dry hot weather imere in the milk state, and mediately thereafter killed 10 or 12,-000 of them, and it was not until the 4th of July that we had a season suffiy good oats. I came to cient to wet the ground, and, late as it was, I reset enough land to bring my and mature after being living plants uy to 50,000, or enough scattered over 17 acres of land to plant suffer from any cause, so 10 acres fully. From the 4th of July is the roots remained intact, and to 29th August we had not a drop of if we will plow the oat deep rain, and, of course the tobacco grew is roots will be slowly, but the ground having been once wet it did not die, and I continued to work it, ploughing each way

State sweep,) following plant each time. drawing dirt to the I found the cultivation very easy; rapidly done, and well suited to negro labor. Up to the 20th July I had no trouble with the horn worm, but about that time they appeared in vast and increasing quantities, and before I could get my raw negro hands "educated" up to the point of catching all of them, big and little as they went, the ones left behind, and growing rapknow to what extent, and that theory idly to enormous size, had done me great injury. As soon as the worms appeard I also took measures to reduce their numbers by poisoning the moth, whose egg laid on the under side of the tobacco leaf, produces the worm. To this end, in the cultivation of the crop, I had instructed my hoe hands to spare all plants of the Jimpson (Jamestown) weed found growing in the tobacco hills, the seed going to the field with the compost, I suppose, and the consequence was that in each lot I had a few very flourishing stalks of Jimpson just coming into bloom. Within these blooms, which are the favorite food of the "hawk moth," and which are open at night and closed in daylight, or, at least, sunlight, I each evening injected a few drops of sweetened water, pretty well colored with cobalt, using a small machine oil can with spring bottom as an injector. I soon began to find the dead moths, and in less than a week's time had the satisfaction to note, first a decrease in the eggs and young worms, and in two weeks' time a total disappearance of all except the old worms neglected in previous worming; nor have I been bothered with them since, except once, when my Jimpson weeds being nearly killed by the continued doses of cobalt I discontinued the use of it a few days, when I found the worms again appearing and young moths growing numerous in the fields. A few, two or three, does a week has kept them under ever since; and right here I will say that I believe if I had commenced the use of the cobalt as soon as the first Jimpson bloom appeared I should have escaped the worms almost alto-

gether. My tobacco showing seed-buds first about 15th July-the first planting-I topbed enough for one barn about July 20. This tobacco was cut and put in barn August 25; cured out August 29, and the specimens I send you are from it.

After the rain, 29th August, it all grew rapidly, and for the first time gave me some trouble with the suckers, which have been or should be removed each week until ready for the knife. I find the additional difficulty, resulting from the rain of that date that all my bottom leaves on the older tobacco are ripe and all the tips or top leaves are green and growing. As, however, I must get through by frost, curing two barns a week, and having barely time to do that, I am compelled to cut, and the result is that while I have a fair show of bright tobacco, suitable for wrappers, I have a very unreasonable amount of green tips which no skill and care will make any thing else of. For this the season is responsible. If we had had rains, even an average amount, of it in the spring and summer, all the tobacco would have been ripe to the top and ready for the knife by this time.

I built me two curing barns of most approved style; fitted them with double return flues, costing barns compiete, about \$95 each, and find them to act perfectly. I have already cut and cured eight barns of from 400 to 509 pounds weight of cured leaf, and expect to cure six or, perhaps, seven more. I have also built a most substantial packing house, 40 by 20, two floors, giving me capacity for storing about 35 boxes, besides room for stripmarket in North Carolina or Virginia, and when I get returns will tell you more about it as a money crop. Thus far I have demonstrated to my own satisfaction:

1st. That our soil and climate are best adapted to the production of fine yellow tobacco.

2d. That the kind and abundance of labor we have is (with good management, a good stock of patience, due allowance for ignorance and consequent inefficiency, until taught,) peculiarly

faverable to its production as an auxil-3d. That I shall enlarge my facilities for curing and storing, and next year shall extend the production on my own place by inducements held out to my tenants to plant two to four acres to the family, to be worked by them, (in which operation women and children can be most profitably employed during the idle season of August and to ith September,) and aftewards, when

4th. That you have not heard the

cured on shares, as agreed upon.

ready to cure, to be sold on hill or

last of tobacco growing as an industry in this section. I send you a few hands of "bright, running from first grade leaf to bright "lug," which you can place with other South Carolina products in Agricultural Hall, remembering that bright yellow tobacco will stand neither handling nor light, (excessive) and that it should not be subjected to the extremes of wet and dry. These specimens have never yet been bulked, and are not at their best, but may at least rank as curiosities, coming, as they do from the first burn of flue cured tobacco ever cured in the State, (August 29, 1885,) so far as I know, and certainly the first cured in what will one day be the celebrated yellow tobacco region of Chester county.

I am very respectfully, yours to ommand, W. R. Davie. command,

Counterfeiting a Valuable Article. The publisher of the Madison County Review writes from Huntsville, Ark., as to the effect of Brown's Iron Bitters on his wife. Mr. Daugherty says, "My wife has been using the Bitters it was difficult to get the gonuine artiele. That difficulty is now remedied: imitators have been exposed and put to flight. There, as elsewhere Brown's Iron Bitters can be had of all the respectable druggists at a dollar a bottle.

-James B. Clary, who lives seven miles from Newberry, while in a fit of delirium tremens imagined that he was being attacked by a crowd of negroes. In firing at his imaginary enemies, one of the balls from his pistol struck his little son, aged six, making a very taken from their homes as serious wound. At this time it is and otherwise maltreated. thought the little fellow will recover. ties were shot and, it is for

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.

MRS, WINSLW'S SOOTHING SYRUT should always be used for children teething. It soothes the child, softens the gums, alloys all pain, cures wind colic, and is the best remedy for diarrheat. Twenty-live cents a bottle.

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GENERAL NEWS ITEMS.

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Facts of Interest, Gathered from Various Quarters. -The trial of Ferdinand Ward com-

menced on Monday. -Bullion in the Bank of England increased £81,206 during the past week. -New York city is to spend \$1,000 for water lillies to be placed in it parks.

-There were reported throughout Spain on Thursday 167 new crses of cholera and 56 deaths. -"Liberty Enlightening the World"

wants \$40,000 more for chains and met in the ca anchors to keep her steadfast. -The Porte has issued a circular to the Powers stating that the armaments

of Greece are a menace to peace. -Jay Gould's family have an income of \$1,400,000 a year from their invest-

ment in Missouri Pacific Railroad stock. -The Democrats of Dakota have determined to take no part in the election for a Constitution for South Da-

-It is understood that the sentence of death of the leader of the halt-breed rebellion in Canada will be commuted to life-long servitude.

-The Archbishop of Canterbury has drawn up special prayers for use in his diocese with reference to the approaching general election in England.

-Capitalists from Dunlap, Iowa, have formed a company with \$150,000 paid up capital for a private savings bank at Chattanooga,

-The Swedish bark Zacharias, Capt. Endresen, which left Wilmington, N. C., on April 21, for Hull, is missing, and it is feared that she is lost. -The President has appointed C.

Mever Zulick, of Arizona, to be Governor of Arizona, vice Frederick A. Tritle, resigned. -A. W. Shaw, better known as "Josh Billings," died at Monterey, Cal, on the 14th inst., of apoplexy. The body was embalmed and sent East.

-Haslan and Lee won the Pleasure Island boat race near Albany, N. Y. by three lengths in 18 minutes and 242 held there by seconds, defeating Conley and Court-

-In St. Louis all the street car lines are running nearly if not quite a full refused to si complement of cars without molestation, and the police guard has been reduced one-haif.

-The marine hospital bureau is informed that cholera is increasing in fatality in Palermo, and that yellow fever is on the increase in Guaymas, Mexico. -The Court of Alabama Claims has

refused to reinstate J. F. Manning, the attorney whose denunciation of the Court led to the recent official investigation of its expenses. -There are at least twenty cases of Thursday

smallpox in Marinette, Wis , the dis- made or ease having been brought there by a mills wi Montreal citizen. Four deaths have already occurred. -Thirty counties in Kansas have union.

nominated Prohibition tickets, and it man is expected that at least an equal num- arry ber of Prohibition tickets will be chosen in additional counties. -There were forty-one deaths from

smallpox in Montreal on Tuesday, eight in St. Cunegonde, five in St. Henri, five in St. Jean Baptiste, one in St. Gabriel and two in Hachelaga. -George E. Gill, aged seventy-five,

who recently removed to Chattanooga from Wilmington, Del., was killed by a freight train at the outskirts of the city last week while taking a walk. -The Harvard College annex, socalled, opened its seventh year on

Monday with sixty-five young women enrolled. It now, for the first time has a house of its own, and its endow, ment amounts to \$85,000. -Bids were opened at the Treasur Department last week for the brick an stone work on the new Federal build

ing at Lynchburg, Va. A. M. M. Gowan, of Washington, was the loy est bidder at \$26,700. -The land office at Washington ! received a communication stating Dr. Powers, who was a Governm

witness in the prosecution of a frau lent land case in California, has slain by J. F. Pruitt, one of the fendants. -The Georgia Legislature adjoy on Thursday, after a summer se of one hundred days. The most

portaut bill passed was the g local option law, under which temperance elections will be he various counties. -The Wayne county, Mich ,

last week, decreed that the la hibiting the manufacture and alcholic liquor is unconstituti technical reasons, and becaus vented men from engaging i mate business. -Harner & Roberts, coal operator

of Pittsburg, Pa., have decided to sta their Elizabeth mine at the three-ce rate. This is one of the largest min on the river, and the concession of t rate demanded is an important victor for the strikers.

-An effort is soon to be made to duce the State department to take so action in the matter of the con general at Paris. This is one of most sought of the consulates, there are said to be four hundred plicants upon file for it.

-The New York gub paign brings on attention to matter to do with the issues of Governor Hill's broth the outside points which

-A great sensation has been in Quincy, Ill., by the publicat the details of the defalcation of R. Conley, secretary and treasu the Quincy Gaslight and Coke pany. His peculations cove period of eleven years and am to from \$22,000 to \$30,000.

-President Lincoln went theater often to forget his cares not so frequently. Haves Arthur went every time the anything worth seeing. He w hospitable to actors and actres President Cleveland does not much for the theater, but he casionally.

-Letters from Bienville Pa parish for some time. The he trouble was a neighbori Members of several families taken from their homes and wounded. Governor M investigation of the mat District Judge, has on guilty parties be arres ed. Several have beg officers are in pursui

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Many a Lady

is beautiful, all but her skin; and nobody has ever told her how easy it is to put beauty on the skin. Beauty on the skin is Magnolia Balm.

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sell's, M. D., Druggist, Thomasville, Ga., says:

In recall instances in which it affords relief after all the usual remedies had failed."

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tlanta, said: "I are examined the ng its use, and confidently recommend

MEDY which the Rev. H. B. John near Marietta, Ga., says he has used its family with the "utmost satifac-n" and recommended it to three fami-"who found it to be just what it is minended." MEDY of which Pemberton, Iverson

Dennison say: "We have been selling for many years, with constantly incasing sales. The article is a staple (ith us, and one of absolute merit." REMEDY of which Lamar, Rankin & Lamar say: "We sold 50 gross in four booths, and never sold it in any place between it was varied again."

the what it was wanted again."
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RUATION that ever came within my lowledge, with a few bottles." EMEDY of which Dr. J. C. Huss, of otasulga, Ala., says: "I am fully con-need that it is unrivaled for that class

liseases which it claims to cure."
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